

**Message for Harrison School community**

Thursday 13 September 2018

Dear parents and carers,

I would like to thank all the parents who attended Wednesday night's information session, kindly organised by the school's P&C.

I would like to especially thank our guests: Chief Health Officer Paul Kelly, WorkSafe Commissioner Greg Jones and Education Directorate's Executive Director of Business Services David Matthews for offering the community a thorough and informative update regarding the finding of non-friable asbestos material at some of the school's garden beds.

Their expertise, information around next steps and reassurance of the measures set in place so far were very welcome by those present.

For those who were not able to attend, we will aim to share the minutes of the forum with the community as soon as these are available. These will be posted in the Community News section of our website [http://www.harrison.act.edu.au/our\\_community/community\\_news](http://www.harrison.act.edu.au/our_community/community_news).

In the meantime, here are some of the main points that were addressed last night:

- ACT WorkSafe continues to investigate the source of the material.
- A remediation plan to remove all garden bed materials is now being developed.
- This plan will involve the removal of all the gravel fill and vegetation from garden beds at the school by a licensed asbestos removalist taking appropriate safety precautions.
- This will be an extensive process and work will begin during the upcoming school holidays.
- Following remediation of the site, the garden beds will be rehabilitated with input from the school community.

Moving forward, the drop-in sessions at drop off/pick up times will be replaced by a designated contact at the Education Directorate, who will be able to take any queries the community might have around this issue. The community contact will be Jo Mulligan, who you will be able to reach on 6205 9137 or [Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au](mailto:Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au).

I will also now update the community at least once a week, or more often if there is any other significant news to share, instead of daily.

I hope you all find this information useful, but as always, I'm happy for you to contact me if you have further questions.

Regards,  
Jason